



**April 18, 2003 Denver, CO:** Governor Bill Owens of Colorado announced Thursday that the State would direct \$1.6 million in state emergency disaster funds to secure aircraft and personnel for initial attack against wildfires for the 2003 fire season.

The Governor brought together the administrative leads for the Bureau of Land Management, the USDA Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service and the Colorado National Guard who working together in 2002 were able to control 98 percent of all recorded ignitions in the state.

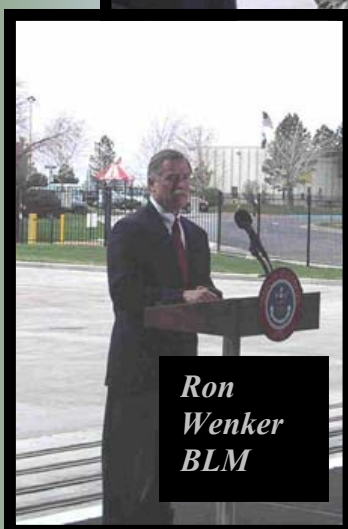
***“I am here to say that Colorado is ready to respond when wildfire strikes, as it will strike us again this spring and summer,” said Owens.***



**Governor Owens**



**Rick Cables  
USFS**



**Ron Wenker  
BLM**



**Governor Owens and  
SEAT inspection**

### **Interagency Cooperation is Key...**

BLM's Ron Wenker, State Director of Colorado, announced that they would be contracting two Single Engine Air Tankers capable of delivering 500 to 800 gallons of retardant to small ignitions on the west slope of Colorado. Jim Hubbard, Colorado State Forester announced they would contract three SEATS for the Front Range and Rick Cables, Regional Forester, announced that there will be a Heavy Air Tanker stationed in Durango along with a medium helicopter.

Last year, the single-engine air tankers flew 194 missions on 61 fires.